

Amendments to the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-4 and substitute therefore new claims 5-28.

Claims 1-4 (Canceled)

Claim 5. (New) An image manipulating system, comprising:

an A/D converter for converting an analog video signal into a digital signal;

a coder for compressing image data from the A/D converter;

an interface circuit for recording the image data compressed by said coder in a removable recording medium employed as an image file and coupled to said interface circuit;

a memory for storing a value, said value being incremented responsive to recording of an image file in said recording medium, said memory retaining said stored value even when the recording medium is uncoupled from said interface circuit and/or replaced with another recording medium;

a controller for automatically producing a file name including a number when an image file is recorded in a recording medium coupled to said interface circuit, said controller selectively executing one of a first file name production mode to set a number in the file name to a selectable smallest one based on information recorded in the recording medium coupled to said interface circuit and a second file name production mode to provide a number in the file name based on the value stored in said memory; and

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a mode selector for selecting one of said first file name production mode and said second file name production mode.

Claim 6. (New) An image manipulating system in accordance with claim 5,

wherein said mode selector comprises a switch to select one of the first and second modes.

Claim 7. (New) An image manipulating system in accordance with claim 5,

wherein the mode selector comprises a display for displaying a menu having selectable recording modes.

Claim 8. (New) An image manipulating system in accordance with claim 5,

wherein said controller retrieves directories having no recorded image file responsive to recording of an image file in the recording medium coupled to said interface circuit when executing said first file name production mode to record said image file in a directory having a smallest directory number and having no recorded

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image file and use said smallest directory number as a number in the file name, to thereby set the number in the file name to the selectable smallest one.

Claim 9. (New) An image manipulating system in accordance with claim 5,

wherein said controller records an image file in a directory of a smallest directory number other than directories in which image files have been recorded or deleted responsive to recording of an image file in the loaded recording medium when executing the first file name production mode, and uses the number of this directory as a number in the file name, to thereby set the number in the file name to a selectable smallest number.

Claim 10. (New) An image manipulating system in accordance with claim 5,

wherein said controller further provides a fixed character as part of the file name when automatically producing a file name.

Claim 11. (New) An image manipulating system in accordance with claim 5,

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wherein said controller further provides a character specific to said system as part of a file name when automatically producing a file name.

Claim 12. (New) An image manipulating system in accordance with claim 5,

wherein said memory is capable of retaining stored data even when power to said memory is turned off.

Claim 13. (New) An image manipulating system in accordance with claim 12,

wherein said memory is an EEPROM.

Claim 14. (New) An image manipulating system, comprising:

an A/D converter for converting an analog video signal into a digital signal;

a coder for compressing image data from said A/D converter;

an interface circuit for recording image data compressed by said coder in a recording medium releaseably coupled to said interface circuit and employed as an image file;

a memory for storing a value, said value being incremented responsive to recording of an image file in the recording medium releaseably coupled to said

interface circuit, said memory retaining said stored value even when said recording medium is decoupled from said interface circuit and exchanged for a second recording medium; and

a controller for automatically producing a file name including a number when recording an image file in said recording medium, said controller producing said number in the file name based on said value stored in the said memory.

Claim 15. (New) An image manipulating system in accordance with claim 14,

wherein said controller further provides a fixed character as part of the file name in automatically producing the file name.

Claim 16. (New) An image manipulating system in accordance with claim 14,

wherein said controller further provides a character specific to said system as part of the file name when automatically producing the file name.

Claim 17. (New) An image manipulating system in accordance with claim 14,

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wherein said memory is capable of retaining stored data even when power to said memory is turned off.

Claim 18. (New) An image manipulating system in accordance with claim 17,

wherein said memory is an EEPROM.

Claim 19. (New) A method of recording image data a one of a plurality of recording mediums each capable of serving as an image file, each recording medium receiving image data and a file identifier when selectively coupled to an interface, comprising:

coupling one of said plurality of recording mediums to said interface;

periodically receiving analog image data;

converting said analog image data into digital image data;

compressing said digital image data;

automatically producing a file name including a number automatically incremented responsive to receipt of image data; and

recording said compressed image data and said automatically produced file name correspondingly in said recording medium;

wherein numbers in said file names are set so as to prevent use of a same number in said file name regardless of which one of said plurality of recording media is selectively coupled to said interface.

Claim 20. (New) A method of recording image data in one of a plurality recording mediums each capable of serving as an image file, a recording medium receiving image data when selectively coupled to an interface, comprising:

selectively coupling one of said recording mediums to said interface;

converting received analog image data into digital image data;

compressing said digital image data;

automatically producing a file name including a number automatically incremented responsive to supply of said image data; and

recording said compressed image data and said automatically produced file name correspondingly in the recording medium coupled to said interface;

wherein one of first and second operating modes is selected, said first mode being a first file name producing mode setting said number in the file name to a selectable smallest one when automatically producing the file names and a said second mode being a second file name producing mode setting numbers in each file name to prevent use of a same number in a file name regardless of which one of said plurality of recording mediums is selectively coupled to said interface.

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Claim 21. (New) A method of recording in accordance with claim 20, wherein said first file name producing mode comprises:

retrieving directories having no image file recorded from a recording medium coupled to said interface;

selecting a directory having a smallest directory number and having no image file recorded as the directory for recording the image file; and

setting the number in the file name as a selectable smallest number by setting the directory number as the number in the file name.

Claim 22. (New) A method of recording in accordance with claim 20, wherein said first file name producing mode comprises:

retrieving directories having no image file recorded from a recording medium coupled to said interface;

setting a directory of the smallest directory number other than directories in which image data have been recorded or deleted as the directory to record the image file; and

setting the number in the file name as a selectable smallest number by setting the directory number as the number in the file name.

Claim 23. (New) A file name producing method for recording image data periodically provided for recording in one of a plurality of recording mediums serving as an image file when selectively coupled to an interface, comprising:

coupling one of said recording mediums to said interface;

automatically producing a file name including a number automatically incremented responsive to receipt of image data,

wherein numbers in the file names are set to prevent duplicate use of said numbers even when said one recording medium is removed from said interface and a different one of said plurality of recording mediums is selectively coupled to said interface.

Claim 24. (New) A file name producing method for recording image data in one of a plurality of recording mediums serving as image file, when a given one of said recording mediums is coupled to an interface, comprising:

coupling one of said recording mediums to said interface;

automatically producing a file name including a number automatically incremented responsive to image data to be recorded;

wherein either one of first and second modes is selected, said first mode being a first file name producing mode setting the number in the file name to a selectable smallest number when automatically producing the file names and said second

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mode being a second file name producing mode setting the numbers in the file names to prevent duplicate use of said numbers even when said one recording medium is removed from said interface and a different one of a said plurality of recording mediums is selectively coupled to said interface.

Claim 25. (New) A method of recording in accordance with claim 24, wherein said first file name producing mode comprises:

retrieving directories having no image file recorded from the recording medium coupled to said interface;

selecting a directory of a smallest directory number and having no image file recorded as the directory to record the image file; and

setting the number in the file name as the selectable smallest number by setting the directory number as the number in the file name.

Claim 26. (New) A method of recording in accordance with claim 24, wherein said first file name producing mode comprises:

retrieving directories having no image file recorded from the recording medium coupled to the interface;

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selecting a directory of the smallest directory number other than directories in which image data have been recorded or deleted as the directory to record the image file; and

setting the number in the file name as a selectable smallest number by setting the directory number as the number in the file name.

Claim 27. (New) A method of recording image data in one of a plurality of recording mediums serving as an image file, whereby received analog image data is recorded when one of the recording mediums is selectively coupled to an interface, comprising:

coupling one of said recording mediums to said interface;

converting analog image data into digital image data;

compressing said digital image data;

automatically producing a file name including a number automatically incremented responsive to received image data;

recording said compressed image data and said automatically produced file name correspondingly in the recording medium coupled to said interface;

storing a value which is incremented responsive to recording of an image file in the recording medium coupled to said interface; and

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retaining the stored value even when said one recording medium is uncoupled from said interface and a different one of said plurality of recording mediums is coupled to said interface, wherein the number in the file name is automatically produced based on the stored value.

Claim. 28. (New) A method of recording image data in one of a plurality of recording mediums serving as an image file, wherein image data is recorded when one of the recording mediums is selectively coupled to an interface, comprising:

coupling one of said recording mediums to said interface;

converting received analog image data into digital image data;

compressing said digital image data;

automatically producing a file name including a number automatically incremented responsive to received image data; and

recording said compressed image data and said automatically produced file name correspondingly in the recording medium coupled to said interface;

wherein one of first and second modes are selectable, said first mode being a first file name producing mode setting the number in the file name to a selectable smallest number when automatically producing the file names and said second mode being a second file name producing mode, said second file name producing mode comprising:

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storing a value which is incremented responsive to recording of an image file in said one recording medium coupled to said interface; and

retaining the stored value even when said one recording medium is uncoupled from the interface and another recording medium is exchanged for said first-mentioned recording medium and is coupled to said interface, wherein the number in the file name is automatically produced based on the stored value.